

City of Houston Municipal Art
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Portable Trojan Bear

PUBLIC ART COLLECTION IDENTIFICATION SUMMARY



Number: 0016

Artist: Love, Jim (1927 -)

Title: Portable Trojan Bear

Date: 1974

Type: Sculpture

Medium: Wolmanized pine and paint on steel

Dimensions: 96" x 61" x 131.25"

Foundry/Fabricator: Artist

Location/Environment: Hermann Park, Outdoors (Playground Installation)

Provenance: Commissioned by the Cultural Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Commerce for the City of Houston; donated by Cameron Iron Works.

Historical Background

Artist

Jim Love is perhaps best known for his bears. He cites a drawing by Pop Artist, Claes Oldenburg as the subconscious inspiration for his use of the teddy bear image. His works have been included in exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum. *Call Ernie* located at Hobby Airport is another local favorite.

Physical Description

The *Portable Trojan Bear* is an interactive sculpture and a functional playground item for climbing that is constructed from wolmanized wood (pine) and painted steel.

This piece is an approachable, schematic representation of a bear. It is featureless, except for its pronounced ears and pointed wooden nose. It has a steel wheel at each of its four legs and steel ladder rungs at its rear, for aid in climbing. A semicircular steel pipe is placed in the center of its back.

The boards are bolted with brass carriage bolts to a steel armature with a few steel carriage bolts used beneath the belly. The wheels have axles running through the fore and hind legs, connecting the structure.

Each of the four wheels rests on a concrete pad. One wheel is locked into place on its pad to prohibit movement.

Restoration/Conservation

Restoration of the *Portable Trojan Bear* was completed in August 1998.